Secret 12

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER

25X1

imagery analysis report

New Type of Heavy Ponton Bridge Identified in China (S)

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WNINTEL

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NEW TYPE OF HEAVY PONTON BRIDGE IDENTIFIED IN CHINA (S)

1. (S/D) A new type of heavy ponton bridge was identified in China on imagery of 25X1
The bridge is very similar to but not identical to the Soviet NZhM-56[1] floating railway 25X1
bridge (Figure 1).

2. (S/D) This newly identified heavy ponton bridge has been observed at three barracks in the Jinan Military Region (Figures 2 and 3)—at Yancheng Army Barracks AL-1 25X1
Yancheng Army Barracks Southeast , and Qihe Army Barracks 25X1
Northeast (Components were observed in open storage as early as 25X1
but were not identified as ponton related until By that date, a man-made 25X1
basin had been completed and filled with water, and ponton components were observed assembled on the basin at Yancheng Army Barracks AL-1 (Figure 4).

3. (S/D) Yancheng Army Barracks AL-1 appeared to be used to house an engineer depot and/or an operational ponton bridge unit (Figure 5). A probable regiment headquarters area, at least two probable ponton battalions, a test/training man-made basin, a storage/maintenance area, and a large motor transport unit are at this barracks. Yancheng Army Barracks Southeast (Figure 6) appeared to be used to house a probable ponton unit. There are ponton components in open storage, a heavy crane, and usually a varied number of ponton components in various stages of assembly on the Huang He (river). Qihe Army Barracks Northeast (Figure 7) may be used only as a small support area, but a heavy crane and ponton components are usually assembled along the bank of the Huang He.

4. (S/D) All three barracks areas are within 14 nautical miles of the only two major railroad bridges crossing the Huang He on the main north-south rail line through east China (Figure 3). The use of this new type of ponton bridge to replace damaged bridges would greatly decrease the recovery time after either a military attack or a natural disaster and its use would result in only a limited interruption of rail traffic along this indispensable north-south route.

5. (S/D) The same type of heavy ponton bridge was observed but not identified as such on 25X1
at 39-15-30N 117-47-22E on the north side of Hangu in the Beijing Military Region. At 25X1
that time, the ponton bridge was being used as a temporary replacement[2] for a railway bridge over the Jiyuh He which was damaged during the Tangshan earthquake on (Figure 8). 25X1

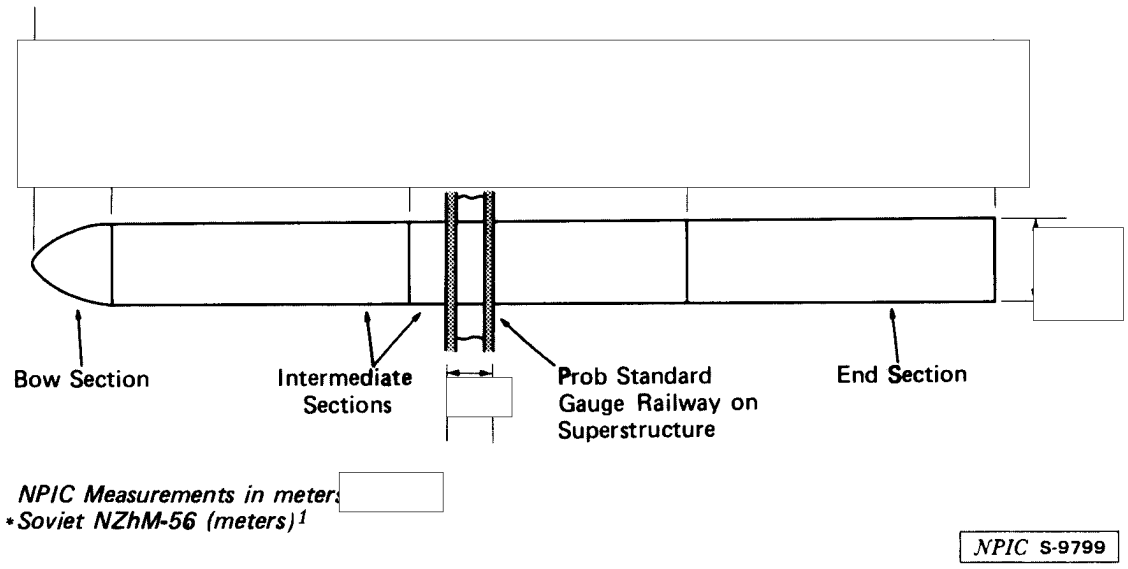

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FIGURE 1. NEW TYPE OF HEAVY PONTON BRIDGE IDENTIFIED IN CHINA

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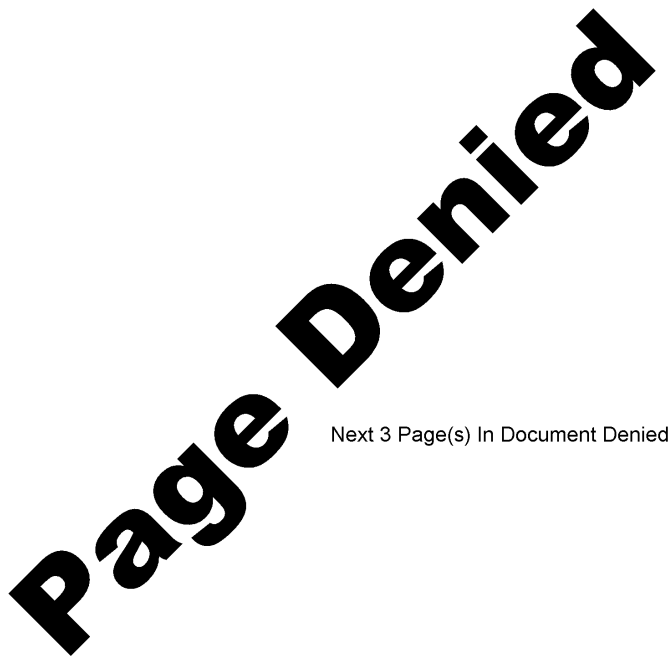

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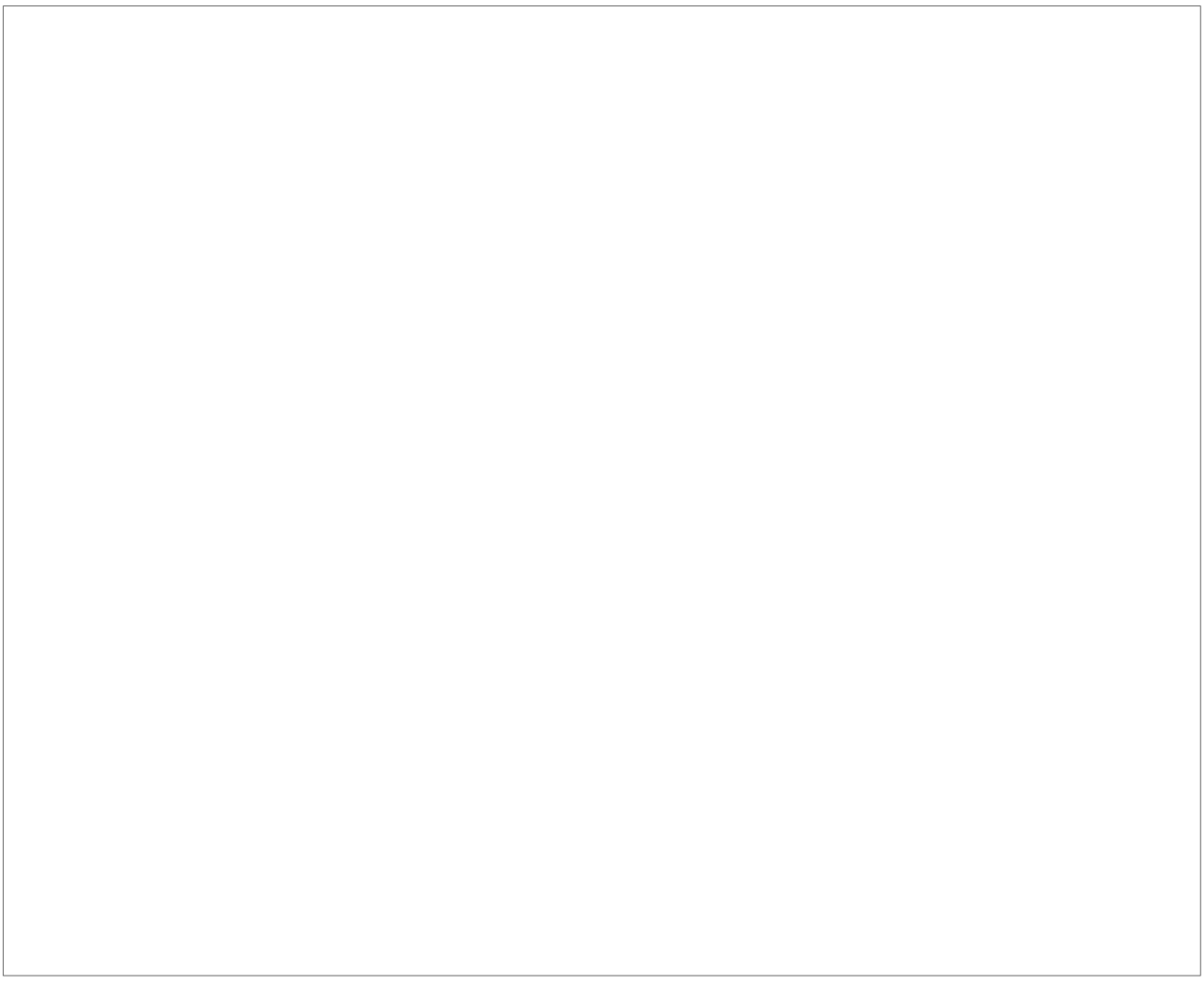

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REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(S/D) All applicable imagery acquired from [redacted] was used in the preparation of this report. 25X1

MAPS OR CHARTS

DMA, US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet M0381-21HL, 5th ed, Oct 74, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET [redacted] 25X1
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DOCUMENTS

1. DIA, DIAM 57-7, *Joint Imagery Interpretation Keys Structure (U)*, Nov 76 (SECRET [redacted] 25X1
2. DIA, TCS-602899/77, DDI-1900-3-77-SAO, *The Tangshan Earthquake: Effects and Recovery (U)*, Jul 77 (TOP SECRET CODEWORDS [redacted] 25X1

*Extracted information is SECRET/WNINTEL.

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Asian Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [redacted] 25X1X1

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